

amendment No. 2491 proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2498

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2498 proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2501

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2501 proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2530

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2530 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2534

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2534 proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2535

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2535 proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2543

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2543 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2996, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1703. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a technical amendment to the Act of June 18, 1934.

On February 24, 2009, the Supreme Court issued its decision in the *Carcieri v. Salazar* case. In that decision the Supreme Court held that the Secretary of the Interior exceeded his authority in taking land into trust for a tribe that was not under Federal jurisdiction, or recognized, at the time the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted in 1934.

The legislation I am introducing today is necessary to reaffirm the Secretary's authority to take lands into trust for Indian tribes, regardless of when they were recognized by the Federal government. The amendment ratifies the prior trust acquisitions of the Secretary, who for the past 75 years has been exercising his authority to take lands into trust, as intended by the Indian Reorganization Act.

On May 21, 2009, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing to examine the executive branch's authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes. At that hearing, it became clear that Congress needs to act to resolve the uncertainty created by the Supreme Court's decision. Therefore, this legislation was developed in consultation with interested parties to clarify the Secretary's authority.

Inaction by Congress could significantly impact planned development projects on Indian trust lands, including the building of homes and community centers; result in a loss of jobs in an already challenging economic environment; and create costly and unnecessary litigation.

Further, if the decision stands, it would have the effect of creating two classes of Indian tribes—those who were recognized as of 1934, for whom land may be taken into trust, and those recognized after 1934 that would be unable to have land taken into trust status. Creating two classes of tribes is unacceptable and is contrary to prior Acts of this Congress. In 1994, Congress passed the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act to ensure that all tribes are treated equally, regardless of their date of recognition.

I want to thank Senators TESTER, INOUE, AKAKA, BAUCUS, UDALL, BINGAMAN, and FRANKEN for their support on this legislation. My cosponsors are well aware of the resulting impact this decision could have on our Native American communities. Affected tribes deserve our timely consideration of this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 19 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 479), is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "The term" and inserting "Effective beginning on June 18, 1934, the term"; and

(B) by striking "any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction" and inserting "any federally recognized Indian tribe"; and

(2) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: "In this section, the term 'Indian tribe' means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 479), on the date of enactment of that Act.

By Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1704. A bill to hold the surviving Nazi war criminals accountable for the war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity they committed during World War II, by encouraging foreign governments to more efficiently prosecute and extradite wanted criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the World War II War Crimes Accountability Act of 2009. The bill seeks to hold the surviving Nazi war criminals accountable for their crimes by encouraging foreign governments to prosecute and extradite wanted criminals. I would like to thank my colleagues, Senators SNOWE and CARDIN, for supporting this important legislation.

The atrocities committed by the Nazis and their allies during the Second World War were vast and have helped shape the modern concept of crimes against humanity. After the war, some of the perpetrators of these heinous crimes escaped justice and have been living out their days as free men.

In an effort to bring these fugitives to justice, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Targum Shlishi Foundation of Miami, Florida launched "Operation: Last Chance" to help identify and facilitate the prosecution of the remaining unprosecuted Nazi war criminals and to assist governments in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice.

Among the Center's many open cases there is Alois Brunner, a key operative of Adolf Eichmann, who was responsible for the deportation of 47,000 Jews from Austria, 44,000 Jews from Greece, 23,500 Jews from France, and 14,000 Jews from Slovakia to Nazi death camps. He lived in Syria for decades and the Syrian government refused to